

# CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS



2002-2003



*"There's nothing quite like being in the State Capitol. It's an imposing, inspiring, beautiful building. This is truly an exhilarating, trial-by-fire experience. Fellows are in the middle of the action – staffing legislation, writing bill analyses and working the process."*

*Anthony Bhe*



California State University,  
Sacramento

Dear Friend:

At no other time in its history has California been so squarely at the forefront of societal change and public policy demands. The list of challenges and opportunities for meaningful public policy decision-making is unprecedented in this state or any other.

A small group of keenly interested, deeply motivated and talented individuals has the opportunity to work within this environment as California Senate Fellows. With the Capitol as both workplace and classroom, Senate Fellows serve as professional Senate staff members and earn graduate units from California State University, Sacramento (CSUS).

CSUS is proud to jointly sponsor the California Senate Fellows program with the State Senate. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald R. Gerth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donald" being the most prominent.

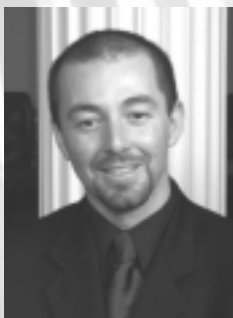
DONALD R. GERTH

President

California State University, Sacramento

*"The program opened my eyes to the convergence of policy and politics, the dynamics of competing interests and compelling circumstances, and the amount of ideology and passion embodied in the political process."*

*Scott Chavez*



*"It was uplifting to be surrounded by so many like-minded, yet diverse individuals. We differed in our life experiences, beliefs and opinions; but we were all committed to the call of public service. The cohesiveness and supportiveness of the group was amazing and was integral to our success as individuals."*

*Angelina Moxey*



# Experience and Insight Into the Legislative Process

Established in 1973, the California Senate Fellows program, formerly known as the California Senate Associates program, grew out of a desire to provide people of diverse ages, experience and backgrounds with insight into the legislative process. It offers college graduates a paid, full-time legislative staff experience in the State Capitol for 11 months. Fellows also participate in academic seminars conducted by California State University, Sacramento faculty.

Ideally, the experience of being a Senate Fellow will broaden the perspective of those planning academic, business or government careers so that they will carry into their chosen fields an understanding of the legislative process and how it relates to their work. In addition to providing Fellows with exposure to the legislative process, the program provides Senate members and policy committees with research and other professional staff assistance.



*"The energy in the Capitol is palpable. All you need do is walk through the building to experience the fast pace and passion. The halls are teeming with people who believe their vision of California is the 'right' one. When legislators, lobbyists, and others are all pulling in different directions, there is no more exciting place to work."*

*Christian Schreiber*



*"The program orientation is an opportunity to develop friendships with the other Fellows and provides the foundation for working as legislative staff. The weekly seminars brought us back together as a group, enabling us to discuss various aspects of our placements in an academic setting away from the office."*

*Tanya Schulte*

Fellows are expected to have strong interests in public policy and politics, but prior legislative experience is not required. A five-week orientation at the beginning of the program includes information and discussion pertaining to state government, the legislative process and major policy issues. Fellows meet and learn from legislative staff, journalists, lobbyists and various state government officials.

In 1984, the program affiliated with the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento and is now operated jointly by the Senate and CSUS.





*While participating in mock committee hearings, Fellows assume the roles of Senators, staff, lobbyists and members of the public.*



*During their program orientation, Fellows are introduced to many aspects of the legislative process. Small group exercises and assignments provide an opportunity for developing collegiality and building relationships.*

*"The fellowship increased my effectiveness as a political activist and permitted me to work closely with policy-makers, participating in daily decisions that impact the health and welfare of California's communities."*  
*Gabriel Benítez*



*"I staffed bills on issues that I feel passionate about: prevention of teenage pregnancy, providing health care to the uninsured, domestic violence and language access. My duties included conducting research, organizing support, addressing the concerns of opponents, collaborating with committee staff and preparing my Senator for hearings."*

*Celinda Vázquez*

## *The Academic Component*

The academic portion of the Senate Fellows program consists of two graduate seminars taught by faculty from the CSUS Government Department.

Weekly seminars in the Capitol provide an opportunity for Fellows to discuss what they are learning on the job in their respective placements. Written projects and oral presentations are assigned by the program academic advisor.

The academic component includes researching, writing and teaching a case study about real-life dilemmas confronting those involved in shaping public policy. Cases are stories with a lesson. The case method can be a valuable teaching tool. The best cases developed by Senate Fellows are published in a textbook suitable for use in graduate and undergraduate courses.

Fellows register as CSUS graduate students during the Spring 2003 semester. All CSUS fees are paid through the program; there is no cost to individual Fellows.



Senate Fellows receive 12 units of graduate credit from the Government Department. Although the units are applicable toward a graduate degree at CSUS, separate application to a specific degree program is required. Other universities accept the units on a case-by-case basis.

Fellows are eligible to defer their student loans for the duration of the program.

*Fellows participate in weekly academic seminars conducted in the Capitol.*

*"I was welcomed into my Senator's office and treated like any other staff member. I was responsible for six bills, some of which were signed into law. The most challenging part of my job was deriving and making voting recommendations from the Senator's perspective instead of my own."*

*Jorge Avila*



# 2000-2001 SENATE FELLOWS



*Front Row, Left to Right:* Jorge Avila; Janel Artis; Scott Chavez; and Tanya Schulte.

*Back Row, Left to Right:* Christian Schreiber; David Duran; Angelina Moxey; Candace Carpenter; Anthony Bhe; Loren Griffith; Sarah Sutro; Jordan Cunningham; Gabriel Benítez; Shervin Bolorian; Celinda Vázquez; Mari Lane; Han Nguyen; and Arnold Astorga.

# 2000-2001 Senate Fellows

**JANEL B. ARTIS**

Orange County, CA

B.A. (Government), CSU\* Sacramento

**ARNOLD ASTORGA**

Glendale, CA

B.A. (Political Science),

University of Colorado at Denver

**JORGE A. AVILA**

Fresno, CA

B.A. (History; Sociology), UC\*\* Davis

**GABRIEL V. BENÍTEZ**

San Diego, CA

B.A. (Political Science), UC San Diego

**ANTHONY J. BHE**

Folsom, CA

B.A. (Molecular and Cell Biology),

UC Berkeley

**SHERVIN BOLOORIAN**

West Hills, CA

M.A. (in progress) and B.A. (Political Science), CSU Northridge

**CANDACE M. CARPENTER**

Napa, CA

B.A. (Political Economy of Industrial Societies), UC Berkeley

**SCOTT J. CHAVEZ**

Los Angeles, CA

B.A. (Political Science),

Chapman University

**JORDAN S. CUNNINGHAM**

Atascadero, CA

B.A. (Physics),

Point Loma Nazarene University

**DAVID J. DURAN**

Newport, MN

B.A. (Philosophy, Politics and Economics), Claremont McKenna

College

**LOREN K. GRIFFITH**

Sacramento, CA

B.A. (Ethics, Politics and Economics), Yale College

**MARI R. LANE**

Piedmont, CA

B.A. (International Studies),

Johns Hopkins University

**ANGELINA B. MOXEY**

Ontario, CA

B.A. (Sociology), Cal Poly Pomona

**HAN T. NGUYEN**

San Jose, CA

B.A. (Political Science) and B.S.

(Biomedical Engineering),

University of Southern California

**CHRISTIAN SCHREIBER**

Stockton, CA

B.A. (Afro-American Studies; English;

Political Science), UC Los Angeles

**TANYA VANDRICK SCHULTE**

Rocklin, CA

M.A. (International Relations),

CSU Fresno; B.A. (International

Relations), UC Davis

**SARAH H. SUTRO**

Kentfield, CA

M.S. (Gerontology), University of

Southern California; B.A. (History),

Connecticut College

**CELINDA M. VÁZQUEZ**

Hawthorne, CA

B.A. (Social Work; Chicano Studies),

San Diego State University

\* California State University

\*\* University of California

## The Work of a Senate Fellow

*"Just days into my placement, my Senator asked me if I'd be interested in handling issues pertaining to energy. With the power crisis mounting, I jumped at the opportunity to be in the midst of such an important and high-profile debate. My office trusted me to staff a controversial energy-related bill and to provide recommendations on hundreds of other measures."*

*Loren Griffith*



*What does a Fellow really do?*

Fellows perform the full range of professional staff functions associated with busy legislative offices. During the orientation period, Fellows participate in an interview process that results in their assignment to a specific office for the remainder of the program. Although each Fellow's placement is unique, there are two main categories – placements in policy committees and placements in Senators' Capitol offices.\*

### Senate Policy Committees

Each committee is chaired by a Senator and is assigned responsibility for considering legislation in specific issue areas. Fellows are part of the professional staff who analyze legislation before it is heard in committee.

Other committee staff responsibilities can include assisting the chairperson with committee-related legislation (s)he is moving through the Legislature, drafting responses to letters from constituents, and special research assignments.

\* Some placements provide a mix of committee and personal office work responsibilities.



## Senate Member's Office

Fellows who are placed in the Capitol offices of Senate members perform a variety of tasks in different issue areas. They help Senators develop and move their own bills through the legislative process.

Fellows also draft responses to constituent letters, write speeches and press releases, meet with constituents and lobbyists, speak to school groups, and prepare committee hearing information or other background information on specific issues.



*"Working in two different capacities – as a Senate Public Safety Committee consultant and as a legislative staff member to my Senator – I was afforded an unparalleled opportunity to experience the customarily collaborative, but occasionally combative, nature of the legislative process from contrasting perspectives."*

*Mari Lane*

*"This is an ideal opportunity to expand policy knowledge while experiencing first-hand the subtle power dynamics of modern democratic governance. My activities in a legislator's personal office and working as a consultant for the Senate Education Committee significantly enhanced my analytical, professional and life skills."*

*Shervin Bolorian*



*"As a Fellow, I was mentored by experienced staff, challenged by intellectually curious peers and supported by a top-notch program. The fellowship is the best way to learn the policy process while simultaneously making an immediate impact in state government. The potential for growth and learning is enormous."*

*Candace Carpenter*

## Stipend

Fellows receive monthly stipends as well as health and dental benefits. The amount of the monthly stipend for the 2001-2002 fiscal year is \$1882.

## Who Can Apply

Anyone who will have graduated from a four-year college or university by September 2002 may apply. There is no preferred major and there is no need to be a recent graduate. Individuals with advanced degrees, and those in mid-career, are encouraged to apply.

## Application Process

Every applicant must submit a packet consisting of the enclosed application, an original copy of all college transcripts, two letters of recommendation, and two written statements. Complete instructions are included on page 4 of the application.

The application packet must be postmarked no later than February 27, 2002. Incomplete or late applications will **not** be considered.

*"The fellowship helped to bridge the expansive divide between the life I had known as a student and the life I hope to build through public service. This is participatory learning; the experience could never be replicated through textbooks or the bricks and mortar of the lecture hall."*

*Han Nguyen*





*"The Senate Fellows program is a combination of training, interoffice networking and hands-on experience. It can prepare you for a career in public policy or refine your skills to be more marketable in any professional sector you choose."*

*Janel Artis*

## *Selection Process*

Eighteen Fellows are selected in May. Fellowships are awarded after an initial screening of applications and a panel interview. Finalists must be available to interview in Los Angeles or Sacramento. The selection panel is unable to conduct interviews by telephone. Funds are not available to reimburse applicants for travel expenses.

Alternates are also selected and may be offered positions as Fellows at any time before the program begins.

## *Selection Criteria*

Considered among the selection criteria are academic background and grade point average, as well as employment history, depth and breadth of community and extracurricular activities, and interest in the Legislature and public policy.

There are many desirable characteristics associated with prospective Fellows, including exceptional communication skills, initiative, flexibility, adaptability, and well-developed organizational and analytical abilities.



# For Further Information

## Contact:

### **California Senate Fellows Center for California Studies**

California State University,  
Sacramento  
6000 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6081  
(916) 278-6906  
E-Mail: [calstudies@csus.edu](mailto:calstudies@csus.edu)  
\*Internet: <http://www.csus.edu/calst>

### **Daniel Friedlander**

Program Director  
(916) 278-5408

or

### **California Senate Fellows Senate Rules Committee**

State Capitol, Room 500  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 322-7563  
Internet: [http://www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/\\_home/](http://www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/_home/)

Applications are available through your State Senator, campus career placement center, or upon request from either of the above addresses.

Applications and the text of this brochure can be printed from the Center and Senate Internet Web sites.

*\*Includes information about all four fellowship programs administered by the Center for California Studies.*

*"The other 17 Senate Fellows were an exceptional group of caring, talented, intelligent and well-rounded individuals. Whether it was a late-night card game, a Saturday bike trip and barbecue or a weekend camping trip, I enjoyed the time we spent together and value the friendships that developed."*

*David Duran*





*"Everyday brought something new – a unique learning experience which contributed to my personal growth and increased my understanding of the world. The skills and lessons I learned are ones which will serve me well throughout the course of my life."*

*Arnold Astorga*

## **Filing Deadline: February 27, 2002**

Your completed application packet must be postmarked no later than February 27, 2002, to be eligible for consideration. There are no exceptions made regarding the application deadline.

## **Calendar of Important Dates**

<b>February 27, 2002</b>	Application deadline
<b>May 2 &amp; 3, 2002</b>	Los Angeles interview dates
<b>May 9 &amp; 10, 2002</b>	Sacramento interview dates
<b>May 2002</b>	Notification of selection
<b>October 2002</b>	Senate Fellows begin orientation
<b>September 2003</b>	Program concludes

*The Center for California Studies is a public education, public service and applied research unit of California State University, Sacramento devoted to promoting understanding of California's history, cultures and public policies. Founded in 1984, and located on the capital campus of the California State University, the Center possesses a unique trust: to bring the resources of the state's largest university system to the service of public discourse, civic education and state government. The Center draws on the services and talents of scholars throughout the 23 campuses of the California State University, and on the expertise of professionals and practitioners throughout the state.*



*"If you are looking for a point of entry into the fascinating and stimulating world of politics, this program is one of the best you could find. The access to public decision-makers is incredible. At times I wanted to be involved, and other times it was just great to be a 'fly on the wall'."*

*Jordan Cunningham*